



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Ernest Gagne

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP MAN SENTENCED
TO 10 YEARS ON CHILD PORN CHARGES**

A Clinton Township man was sentenced today to ten years in prison following his conviction on child pornography charges, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit.

Ernest Gagne, 57, of Clinton Township, Michigan, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts to 120 months in prison followed by three years supervised release.

Gagne pleaded guilty in April of this year. The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that on or about November 25, 2003, Gagne possessed over 33,000 child pornography images on his computer. These images consisted of young and prepubescent male children posing nude and engaging in sexually explicit acts, alone or with other male children. Approximately 108 of the child pornography images were of prepubescent male children tied up or being tortured in a sexually explicit fashion. In addition, many of the child pornography images contained identifiers showing they were obtained from a

child pornography website on the Internet.

United States Attorney Murphy stated, "As I have said time and again during my term as United States Attorney, child sexual exploitation is among the most horrific crimes that we prosecute. Today's conviction provides evidence that while our innovative Child Safe Initiative is paying big dividends by incarcerating dangerous child predators, we still have a long way to go. The fact that any individual in society would possess 33,000 images of children involved in sexual activity is disturbing enough, but when coupled with the fact that the defendant had two prior convictions for child sexual exploitation offenses, this case calls out for the strongest possible sentence. The term of incarceration imposed by Judge Roberts today guarantees that defendant Gagne will spend many of his latter years in jail, unable to contribute to the hurt of any more children."

"Using ICE's expertise and authority to keep sexual predators away from Michigan's children is a special role that ICE will not turn away from" said Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. "The joint efforts of ICE and our county and local law enforcement partners in this investigation have made our community a safer place for our kids."

The investigation by ICE agents in Detroit revealed that Gagne was incarcerated in New Jersey for sexually assaulting a minor in the late 1990's. In 2001, Gagne received an additional one-year sentence after an arrest and conviction by the Utica Police Department for possession of child pornography. In January 2004, Gagne was sentenced by the State of Michigan to five additional years in prison for probation violations. Probation conditions placed on Gagne prohibited him from accessing computers and the Internet. Execution of search warrants in November 2003 concluded that Gagne had been accessing child pornography, in violation of his probation.

This case is part of the Project Safe Childhood, a Department of Justice initiative aimed at preventing the abuse and exploitation of children through the Internet

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-

5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances Carlson, Eastern District of Michigan prosecuted this case.